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**Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone (312) 360-0080
Facsimile (312) 360-9315**

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• **Comments:**

Enclosed are the proposed claim amendments.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Joseph P. Fox

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APPENDIX

1. (Currently Amended) A document information search apparatus for searching document information on the basis of a search request transmitted through a network and responding, wherein:

a search condition designating unit, which designates a file as a search condition and transmits contents of said designated file via the network, is provided for a search requesting source; and

a document search unit having a morpheme analyzing unit which extracts nouns by a morpheme analysis of a text document and which forms a keyword from the file contents transmitted from said search condition designating unit and searches similar documents from a database is provided on a search side,

wherein said document search unit comprises a search executing unit which searches for similar documents by searching the database by using said keyword and notifies the search requesting source of a search result.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein index information describing a list of important words extracted from search target documents is stored for every document in said database, and said document search unit on the search side comprises:

a text extraction processing unit which extracts a text document

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from the file contents received in response to the search request;

a morpheme analyzing unit which extracts nouns by a morpheme analysis of said text document;

a keyword forming unit which extracts important words from said nouns and forms a keyword in which said important words are coupled by OR; and

a search executing unit which searches similar documents by searching the search database by said keyword and notifies the search requesting source of a search result.